

Materfut® headquarters facade: a fascinating three-dimensional look thanks to Corian® Solid Surface and parametric design.

March 2022 - Artificial Intelligence is bringing new solutions and creating exciting new options in several fields of human activity. Architecture is going through a major change with the diffusion of parametric design. Based on the power of computer processing, parametric design enables the creation of groundbreaking new solutions and provides the flexibility and productivity increases requested today by architecture and building markets. The headquarters of the company Materfut® in Vila Nova de Gaia, Portugal, is a great example of the possibilities offered by parametric design applied to Corian® Solid Surface: a rapid transition from design to fabrication of cost-competitive, three-dimensional panels featuring complex geometries, curves, and irregular shapes for highly creative options for unique, long-lasting vertical applications.

The Materfut® headquarters features an innovative facade made with different types of Corian® Exteriors panels, including a series of complex three-dimensional panels, resulting from the combination of parametric design with the design versatility of Corian® Solid Surface.



Materfut® headquarters, in Portugal. Facade with Corian® Exteriors panels (made with Corian® Solid Surface) showcasing different shaping possibilities, including organically shaped panels created with parametric design; Project by architect Alexandre Sousa Lopes; fabrication and installation by Materfut®; Image by Materfut®, all rights reserved.

The two-story facade of the Materfut® building – made of seven vertical “sections” – is entirely clad with different types of Corian® Exteriors panels. The sections on the two ends of the building provide entrances for access and are made with flat panels in Deep Nocturne colour; two sections are made with flat panels in Glacier White colour; two further sections are made with flat panels featuring a portion with a special pattern and are also backlit. The most visually striking section of the facade is made with sixty-four curved three-dimensional panels in Glacier White colour located next to the main entrance.

“The Corian® Exteriors panels close to the main entrance are something special: they are made via an innovative process which efficiently combines parametric design with Corian® Solid Surface. We are very pleased with the result and excited by the creative possibilities offered by this combination, which enables the creation – more rapidly than with conventional solutions - of organic, three-dimensional panels for facades as well as for interior cladding solutions. The finished facade looks exactly like the initial design, we were not forced to simplify shapes and geometries of the cladding panels”, said Cláudia Martins Costa, Marketing Coordinator at Materfut®.

Buildings are becoming multi-functional spaces creating design and construction complexities for architects, with the additional need for environmentally sound solutions. Think of the new corporate headquarters, for example, that needs to serve various roles beyond office work. To respond to these challenges architects are increasingly using artificial intelligence.



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“For many years, Corian® Solid Surface has demonstrated across the world its design versatility and its alignment with the technological evolutions of the building industry. The Materfut® headquarters facade is a perfect example of the benefits and value provided by digital methods for the optimisation and computation of data in the design process. An innovative and fully automated process, including a variety of smart technological solutions, has been used to create the three-dimensional panels in Corian® Solid Surface for this project. This process does not require the use of wooden moulds and makes the design, fabrication and finishing process significantly faster than conventional solutions. The possibility to avoid wooden moulds provides also interesting benefits in terms of environmental sustainability”, said Toni García, Commercial Leader South Europe, Corian® Design.

Parametric design is an algorithm-based tool that allows architects to explore design possibilities in an easy and fast way. Computer processes use design data provided by the architect to create relationships between the geometrical parameters. Avoiding manual trials and eliminating human errors, it allows cheaper and faster project options, with minimal impact on the environment.

Corian® Exteriors is a reliable and durable solution that offers a wide range of design options for facade design. It can be glued without visible joints and is thermoformable, ensuring uncompromising beauty even when used on large areas and for rounded shapes. Corian® Exteriors panels are made with Corian® Solid Surface which is a non-porous material, resistant to UV and to fading. In the event of surface damage, despite its durability and resistance to dirt and stains, it can be easily repaired by cleaning and sanding.



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About Materfut® (<https://materfut.com>) Founded in 2001, Materfut, S.A. is a company specialising in the import and distribution of innovative materials. Located in Vila Nova de Gaia, Portugal, Materfut® is dedicated entirely to innovation and is the official distributor of Corian® Solid Surface for Spain and Portugal. Materfut® is a leading company in the import market, looking for the best partnerships and the highest quality products. It relies on skilled and highly motivated professionals to help customers with the most challenging projects and provides commercial and technical advice.

Beauty Meets Versatility with Corian® Exteriors - Corian® Exteriors solutions based on Corian® Solid Surface brings personality to virtually any type of environment, enhancing and facilitating the lives of those who use and enjoy its unique potential. It can be crafted into almost any shape, for any place, for any purpose, and is available in a wide range of colours, offering you the freedom to design, explore, and create. Long-lasting, durable, and elegant, Corian® Exteriors solutions, such as cladding panels, have a three-dimensional formability that has been liberating inventive and artistic minds for over 40 years. To know more about Corian® Exteriors: <http://www.exteriors.corian.com>

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Project by architect: Alexandre Sousa Lopes; fabrication and installation by Materfut®;

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